The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1903.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

The Canadian Commissioners in refusing to sign the Alaskian award seem to us to be "doing the baby act," to use an expressive slang. The case was thoroughly investigated and intelligently argued by both sides, and the award made according to the facts.

Our case was well presented by Mr. D. T. Watson, counsel for the United States, and a full synopsis of his address was printed at the time in the London Telegraph. Mr. Watson began by saying that what was acquired by the United States in 1867 from Russia was a lisiere of coast, running round the heads of the inlets of the coast of South Alaska. Russia submitted to the United States, as proof of her title to possess what she offered to sell, the facts that she had discovered the coast in 1741; that she had been in occupation of it from 1799 until 1867, for all the purposes for which it was fit to be occupied without a single nation ever objecting, and that Great Britain and Canada had by their acts assented to the line which she claimed as the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia. The evidence of this, which was submitted to the American Senate, included maps issued by Russia not long after the 1825 treaty, showing their boundary going round the heads of the inlets. The Senate approved of the purchase, but took precautions of stipulating that the purchase money should not be paid for eight months after the conclusion of the bargain.

At that time (1867), Mr. Watson proceeded, Great Britain and Canada knew that the United States were buying this territory in the belief that its extent and boundaries were those which were described by Russia in her maps. Then if ever in good faith, he argued, were England and Canada bound to have said, "We claim the heads of the inlets." But they offered no word of protest. Both stood by and allowed the purchase to be made on the basis of the Russian maps without a single intimation that anything was wrong with Russia's delineation of the country which she said she had been in possession of for nearly a century. Immediately afterwards ships of the United States began to run up to the tops of the inlets. Great Britain said nothing, Canada said nothing; the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company said nothing. The United States began to exercise jurisdiction, and gradually, from year to year, enforced her laws.

And it is probable that nothing ever would have been said had not gold been discovered in the Yukon Valley.

But that discovery made a great difference, and England and Canada, after holding their peace for so long, set up the claim that they were the owners of the upper part of the Lynn Canal. When there were great interests at stake and when Canada thought she could get something that would be of inestimable value to her, she put forward the contention that the boundary line did not run round the heads of the inlets, and now there was not a bit of the United States boundary line which was not disputed.

The tribunal had not only to answer certain questions in reference to the true meaning and application of certain clauses of the treaty of 1825, said Mr. Watson, but had also to "take into consideration any action of the several governments, or of their respective representatives, preliminary or subsequent to the conclusion of the treaties (1825 and 1867), so far as the same tends to show the original and effective understanding of the parties in respect to the limits of their several territorial jurisdictions under and by virtue of the provisions of said treaties." Now, if he could prove that both Russia and Great Britain asserted that the boundary line ran round the heads of all the inlets, that would go far to determine the meaning of the treaty of 1825. He reminded the tribunal of the rule of civil courts that where there was ambiguity in the wording of a contract between parties the courts looked to the object and purpose of both parties in making the contract, with a view to get at its true meaning. This, he said, with reference to the phrase in the 1825 treaty about mountains and he added that if the tribunal answered in the way he wished it to answer the earlier questions put to it by the convention of 1903, they would not require to wander about among 600 mountains in order to trace a boundary.

In conclusion he called attention to the Russian imperial ukase of 1799, granting the first charter to the Russian-American Company. In this ukase there was an assertion by right of discovery of exclusive ownership of all the coast from Behring Straits down to the fifty-fifth parallel, and a granting of full hunting, trading and industrial rights to the company. The Russian-American Company established their posts in the islands of the coast, and traded with the natives who lived up and around the inlets of the mainland for pelts. That was what was valuable to the Russians—the exclusive right to trade with these natives who lived up these inlets. British traders never went near the coast at that time, but United States traders did and they complained bitterly of these exclusive rights. This led to another ukase, issued in 1821, reasserting her exclusive ownership round this coast, and interdicting to foreign ships the carrying on of any traffic or barter with the natives of the islands and of the northwest coast of America, from Behring Straits down to the fifty-first degree of northern latitude. This meant that they were prohibited from going up any of these inlets. Russia used the word "coast" as including all the indentations from the shore, whether they were inlets many miles long or bays only one mile long. She did not mean "general trend of the coast." This ukase was communicated to the European governments by Russia, and through its minister in London, Count Nesselrode, informed the British government of its objects, which were to prevent smuggling, the sale of arms to the natives and other objectionable operations of "vagabonds."

Great Britain and Canada accepted the situation, and when Alaska was purchased our title was undisputed. It is now too late to upset it. The British Commissioners have taken the just and sensible view, and the Canadian Commissioners should have acquiesced.

HAWKINS' FAME.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal recently protested very vigorously against the credit for leading the charge at St. Juan Hill being given to Mr. Roosevelt, while the real hero of that occasion, General Hawkins, is constantly overlooked.

In reply the Washington Post says Mr. Roosevelt has never attempted to appropriate glory which rightfully belongs to another. It asserts that he has "never claimed a part in the charge, but on the contrary has been at pains to tell in his book, 'The Rough Riders in Cuba,' how he watched the fight from the summit of Kettle Hill, about half a mile to the rear," where, much against his desire, he was ordered to stay. And on the same page of the book General Hawkins "is mentioned as the hero who really led the charge." General Hawkins, we are assured, has "received recognition in every official report, and was honorably retired a year or two ago, and is now Governor of the Soldiers' Home at Washington."

All this is true, no doubt, but who ever hears of Hawkins, the hero? How often is his name associated with the charge at San Juan Hill? Somehow, his glory is overshadowed, if not obliterated, by Roosevelt's.

In the light of the facts presented by our Washington contemporary, we cannot lay the fault at the President's door, but we can't so readily exonerate some of his friends. So deepseated and widespread is the impression that Roosevelt was the hero of the battle in question, most of the Americans have never heard of Hawkins—Hawkins, the hero of San Juan Hill.

NEGRO DIALECT.

We print elsewhere a communication from a North Carolina correspondent in which he says that The Times-Dispatch is right in maintaining that there is such a thing as a fairly uniform negro dialect throughout the South.

We have never meant to say, of course, that all negro slaves in all sections talked alike. There were variations in different sections, even of the same State.

We recall, for example, that on the Burgwyn plantations in the Roanoke bottoms of Northampton county, N. C., there was a distinct lingo and a peculiar inflection of the voice, which betrayed a "Neck nigger" wherever he was found. Our only contention is that there was a characteristic dialect, such as that spoken by "Uncle Remus," and that with slight variations here and there it was spoken by the great majority of southern negroes. We were not dealing with the exceptions, but with the rule.

But the original article was designed to show that the jargon manufactured at the North was never spoken at any time by any negro anywhere.

SELF-RELIANCE.

We understand that many children in the public schools of Richmond, especially those in the primary grades, never carry their books home, which means, of course, that they do not study at home. They come to school in the morning without having prepared their lessons, and the teacher has to drum it into them. The teacher is held responsible for the progress of the pupils, and in consequence the children are stuffed as much as possible.

This seems to us to be an utterly erroneous idea of education. Education is a process of development, and studies are a means of developing the talents and training the mind. Study is the most important part of education. It is more important than the mere acquisition of knowledge. That which the child learns for itself by diligent study is worth a hundred-fold more than that which is drummed into it by the teacher.

Therefore, it becomes a matter of supreme importance that children should be required to study at home; to study independently of the teacher and independently of the members of the family. In some cases there is too much teaching at home; in other cases there is too much teaching at school. If the child is going to be stuffed it might as well be stuffed by the teacher in school as by the mother at home. But the child should not be stuffed anywhere. It should be thrown to a certain extent upon its own resources. It should be taught self-reliance; it should be taught to tackle the subject in hand and wrestle with it and overcome difficulties by its own efforts. By such a process it may not gain as much knowledge in a given time, it may not make as fine a show on parade day, but it will have made better progress in true education.

We do not underrate the office of the teacher. There must be guidance and instruction, but the importance of self-reliance should be kept always in view. When a little tot is taught to walk it is guided by the hand of mother and encouraged and instructed. But what the teacher is trying to do is to teach the child to rely upon its own strength to stand erect and move the limbs. In short, it is taught the lesson of self-reliance; it is taught to depend upon itself rather than upon mother, and by and by when self-reliance is thoroughly established the child scorns assistance.

Mental training should be of the same sort. American manhood means self-reliance, and that is the lesson, the all-important lesson, to be learned in school. With that lesson thoroughly learned, all the rest will be comparatively easy.

Benjamin K. Turner, who is represented as an engineering expert, insists that there is a running river away down in the earth below Governor's Island.

Borers for artesian wells have gone down to the depth of 1,900 feet without success, but Mr. Turner is not dismayed. A second well is now at 450 feet depth without results. If it fails, Mr. Turner and his financial backers will try to get water from the running river they speak of, and the New York Tribune says they will receive $150,000 if successful. He claims to have a "certain psychological gift" for discovering water.

The 1,800-foot well struck granite and Mr. Turner warned the men engaged in boring that they would better desist, as they could not expect to strike water in such rock. A similar difficulty presents itself here in Richmond, except that the granite is found much nearer the surface. Sometimes crevices in the rock are struck where running water is found.

Mr. Grover Cleveland had a cordial reception in Chicago last week, which shows that he still has many friends and admirers. The Inter Ocean says that every third man in the crowd expressed to Mr. Cleveland the hope of having an opportunity to vote for him again, and further states that the bulk of the crowd was made up of workingmen.

Home and Farm, a weekly journal, published at Springfield, Ill., recently took a ballot through its columns by way of ascertaining the choice of its readers for the presidency, which resulted in 12,833 votes for Cleveland, being more than the combined vote of Bryan, Johnson, Hill and Hearst. The State Register took a similar ballot, in which Cleveland came out first, with 1,838 votes, and Bryan second, with 938.

These statements are taken from the New York Sun.

The Knoxville Sentinel has just published a trade and industrial edition, containing thirty-six pages. This is the fourth annual edition of this character, and is the largest of the series. The Sentinel says that Knoxville is enjoying a genuine boom—not a land boom, but a trade and industrial boom, which is substantial. As a newspaper is a fair index to the trade of the city it represents, this edition of our enterprising contemporary in itself substantiates the claim which it makes for Knoxville. It is also fair to say that the Sentinel is a powerful factor in the progress of Knoxville.

As a means of stopping deserters from the army, General Funston recommends that the pay of the enlisted men be increased. He says that with better pay more country men could be induced to enter the service and that they would be preferable to the played out fellows, who are too often enlisted in the cities.

Our impression is that the recruiting officers have been at work in the country for several years past. We know they have been in several of the small towns in Virginia and North Carolina.

The death rate of New York city has been cut down from twenty in a thousand in 1901 to 18.75 a thousand in 1902, and the returns for the first eight months of this year indicate a rate of only eighteen per thousand for 1903.

Montgomery Advertiser: Virginia has been trying the viva voce system of voting and from what we can learn from their papers there was but little viva and less voce. The system is out of date.

Ex-Editor Bibb has abandoned his scheme to enter the journalistic field in Richmond and has set up as an independent candidate for the Legislature in the county of Louisa.

In his Chicago speech, Mr. Cleveland improved on the late Senator Ingalls' autobiographical sketch by describing himself as "a politician who is not in politics."

"Incorporated dishonesty" is the appropriate name Judge Grosscup, of Chicago, has given to some of the charters that were born in New Jersey.

The members of the Legislature are having their washing done and their grips dusted up for the trip to Richmond next month.

The White House detective force is to be enlarged. Carrie Nation has announced her purpose to seek an interview with Mr. Roosevelt.

Atlanta had a horse show last week also and as is true of everything Atlanta undertakes, is was a howling success.

With such a bunker crop in the barns and granaries it is hard to figure out a panic or hard times for the South.

Wall Street is keeping Secretary Shaw too busy to allow him to do any stump speaking this fall.

There are no spots on Virginia's grand and glorious October sun.

The June of the Indian summer seems to be approaching with rapidity.

Horse show profits this year enlarged the "velvet" pile considerably.

Trend of Thought In Dixie Land

Memphis Commercial-Appeal:

Hanna has praise for Jefferson, Cleveland, Tilden and other Democratic leaders. Roosevelt has no praise for any president except himself.

Savannah News:

Worse than a Chinese puzzle to those who look on from afar is the New York city political situation. Even New Yorkers themselves do not understand it. It is a muddle that even the election on November 3d may not quite clear up.

Birmingham Age-Herald:

The champion gold brick up to this writing is the United States shipbuilding trust, of which Schwab was the chief artist.

Charleston News and Courier:

One of the indications of civilization in South Carolina is the increasing attention now being given to the improvement of our highways. Some very excellent results have been obtained.

Augusta Chronicle:

Here it comes at last; somebody has suggested Uncle Adlai Stevenson as the next Presidential nominee. But the Democratic party is in no humor to be joked with right now.

A Few Foreign Facts.

A new Austrian battleship, Erzherzog Karl, 10,600 tons, was launched on October 4th at Trieste.

The revenue of the Orange River Colony for the past financial year amounted to £1,770,000 and the expenditure to £1,524,000.

Telephone connection between St. Petersburg and Berlin is contemplated, the cost being estimated at $200,000.

Of 400 natives belonging to the American mission at Rahuri Bombay, India, who were inoculated against plague, only one girl caught the disease, and she recovered.

Two English and two Italian officers have arrived at Jibutil, East Africa, and will accompany the Abyssinian force, which is to co-operate with General Egertons columns in the impending advance against the Somali Mullah.

A wine merchant at Eisenstadt, Hungary, found guilty of adulterating wines, was sentenced to twenty days' imprisonment and costs, including those of advertising the judgment in the principal newspapers of Hungary.

Personal and General.

General John B. Gordon, of Georgia, has resumed his lecturing tour in the South.

Mrs. Cortelyou will make her first official appearance as the wife of a Cabinet minister at the public reception on New Year's day.

August H. Becker, the well-known painter and decorator of St. Louis, is dead. His work remains in many of the city's most notable buildings.

Theodore Hansen, first secretary and charge d'affaires of the Russian Embassy, has closed the summer headquarters of the embassy at Bar Harbor and has returned to Washington.

Former Chief Justice William E. Parmenter, of Massachusetts, has just died in West Cambridge. He had been a lawyer since 1842, and remembered Boston as a town and saw Lafayette when the latter visited America. He was born in 1817.

Dr. Charles W. Hargitt, head of the biological department of the Syracuse (New York) University, is home from a sojourn of eight months in Europe. On the Bay of Naples he caught a specimen of the jellyfish which had long been sought after by famous European scientists.

With a Comment or Two.

The next pleasure awaiting the residents of this garden spot of the world is good old Indian summer time—the glory and beauty of which is nowhere quite so charming as in Virginia.—Norfolk Ledger.

That's what we have been contending for, but there are many people who insist that Indian summer is generally a myth, and very uncertain at best.

General Thomas L. Rosser is running for the Legislature in Charlottesville. The Lou Dillon record is still reasonably safe.—Harrisonburg News.

Safe it is. Even the short legs of Thomas N. Williams, who is an independent candidate for the Legislature, in Pittsylvania, will hardly fracture it.

If the South worked for internal improvements by the government like the other sections, our material advancement would be very much more rapid.—Knoxville Sentinel.

Exactly so. "The old flag and an appropriation" make good platform timber. We need more of it in the South.

The verdict of the jury does not speak well for South Carolina justice, but the sentiment which it may arouse may warm the old Palmetto State up to the point of endeavoring to make a radical revision of her criminal code.—Mobile Register.

Better radically revise the moral sense of her men subject to jury duty.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Raleigh Times briefly refers to the great reunion thus:

North Carolina is safely in the lead in this timely consideration of honoring those of her people she has so generously loaned to other States, and even other countries. And Greensboro has also made an enviable score.

The Charlotte Chronicle says:

Ex-Senator Marion Butler, national chairman of the Populist party, is quoted as saying that the reorganized Populists will cast more than two million votes for an independent ticket of their own in coming presidential election. Which will be a very foolish thing for them to do when they could doubtless turn these votes into a good deal of patronage by a fusion arrangement.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel says:

President Roosevelt took a position against the trusts, but when the water began to be squeezed out of the big corporations and folks began kicking around in the flood, he cried out that his enemies were bringing trouble upon the country for the sole and only purpose of embarrassing him politically. As a trust buster he did not intend to be taken seriously.

The Wilmington Messenger says:

It is a pity the newspapers do not let Mr. George Vanderbilt alone about that Biltmore affair. It is entirely of a private nature and something with which the public has nothing to do. That some of his trusted employes have been swindling him and how he is going to act under the disagreeable circumstances are his business, and the public should not attempt or desire to pry into his personal apairs.

The Wilmington Star says:

It is said that Booker Washington now advocates the removal of the negroes from the congested black belt of the South to the regions of the North and West. Wonder if Booker would head the column if destined for Evansville, Ind., or Waterloo, Iowa.

Negro Dialect.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—That The Times-Dispatch is right in its assertion that there is such a thing as a fairly uniform negro dialect at the South will, I am sure be borne out by the most observant people to the manner born. As is admitted, there are exceptions to the general prevalence of this dialect, the most noticeable one being in the Ogeechee region of Georgia. I am reliably informed that the negroes of that region, who are undoubtedly late importations from Africa, speak a lingo compounded of native African and English that is almost wholly unintelligible to people accustomed to the negro dialect. But this and other instances are only the exceptions. There is undoubtedly a surprising uniformity in the general negro dialect of the South. It seems to be much more uniform than the dialect of the illiterate whites. And for this there is good reason. The diverse white dialects of the South are doubtless survivals under more or less modified forms of the diverse dialects of England.

There are two reasons why there should be substantial uniformity in the negro dialect. In the first place, it mainly had its birth in Virginia and North Carolina, from whence negroes were carried in ante-bellum days to all parts of the South and Southwest; also to Tennessee, Kentucky and some parts of the West. Another, and though doubtless far less potent, cause in producing the uniform negro dialect was that it was the result of an attempt of the slaves to imitate the language of their masters. This dialect of the educated whites of the South, and the English language at its purest, is but a dialect which has over-mastered other and competing dialects of the English people, was, of course, common to the slave-holding class generally. In imitating this the resultant dialect naturally had more or less uniformity.

I was born on a southern plantation ten years before the war, and in common with so many other southern boys, my playfellows were little negroes. Since the war many negroes have come under my observation, and among them negroes from most of the Southern States. The uniformity of their dialect has always been noticeable, though, of course, there are modifications and variations. I saw not very long ago a striking illustration of this. I had long known that in this part of North Carolina the Albino negro is called a "Molly Glasco." I took this to be a purely local word, especially as the sur-name Glasgow is found in this neighborhood among the mulatto free negroes. But upon recent inquiry I find the term familiar to a negro from Georgia and several from South Carolina and it is probably understood in other Southern States.

I will add that I never knew a negro to use the word "Massa" or "Mosser." It is always "Marster," or, when attached to a given name it is "Marse." Thus he would say, "Ole Marster" or "Young Marster" and "Marse Jawn" or "Marse Jeems."

In the following four lines of negro dialect which you reproduced from the New York Tribune there are about a dozen errors.

"Dat, sah, am not a fact'ry. Dat am S'n John's 'Piscopal Church, where Marse Patrick Henry done get up an' ax de Lawd to gib him liberty or gib him deaf."

The old time negro, provided he used these words would have rendered them thus: "Dat, suh, a' no fact'ry. Dat Sain' Jawn's 'Pistopul Chu'ch, whar Marse Partrick Henry git up en ax de Lawd to gin him liberty or gin him deaf."

But the chances are that if he had known that much about Patrick Henry he would also have imbibed sufficient knowledge of the Revolution to embellish his assertion in somewhat the following picturesque fashion.

"Dat, suh, a' no fact'ry. Dat Sain' Jawn's 'Pistopul Chu'ch, whar Marse Partrick Henry hop up en ax de Lawd to gin him liberty or gin him deaf. King George done got mighty biggity, yer know, suh en 'low he ev'body's daddy. But, bimeby, he got enough er dat deaf bus'nes', en he gin Marse Partrick Henry whut he ax de Lawd fer. En it all happ'n right in dar. Dat whut he say, suh."

When I was a boy it was a common expression among the older negroes that if I had so and so "I wouldn't ax King George to be my daddy."

The negro never rolled his R's, and to be perfectly accurate H should be used after vowels in its place.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Blakenhall, Kittrell, N. C.

Major Stiles' Book.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—As a Virginian and an ex-Confederate soldier, I feel it a duty to recognize the value of every contribution to the truth of the history we hold so dear. Most of the books and articles published since the greatest of all wars have been faulty, full of error, or too partisan and prejudiced to be worthy of unqualified endorsation. Major Robert Stiles in his "Four Years Under Marse Robert," has avoided these weaknesses. He has dealt, with a master's hand, not only with the events of the war, but with its philosophy. Rather than exaggerate he has sometimes undercolored the picture, but the whole book is as true to life as it is possible for it to be written.

Even his anecdotes, while deeply interesting, are nowhere overdrawn. Storytellers are very apt to amend and add to the coloring with each repetition until truth is sacrificed to romance. This cannot be said of Major Stiles' book. Thirty-nine years ago he related to my brother one of the incidents retold in his book, as we trudged along the road on the march, and it was told then just as he has published it to-day.

The work is the most valuable contribution to the history of the Confederacy yet written, because it puts every phase of the politics involved in its correct setting. His military criticism reads as if written by an able general. But more than all is the work of value historically because it so ably points out the inherent weaknesses of the conduct of our affairs. No one who cares to form a judgment on the great Iliad of our history can afford to neglect becoming familiar with this work.

ARTILLERYMAN.

Good Roads in Charlotte County.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—A good roads meeting was called for October court day, but as political speaking had the right of way and possession of the courthouse the friends of the movement, after consultation decided to appoint precinct committees to bring the matter prominently before the people by holding meetings in all parts of the county.

Public opinion is strongly developing toward taking some action at an early day. A law was recently passed by the Legislature empowering the county to issue bonds to the amount of $125,000 for permanent road improvement.

The law provides that the above amount may be spent in addition to that derived from the regular road tax at present, and that money derived from bond issue shall be spent only for permanent road improvement.

The people are aroused as to the importance and urgency of the question of better roads, but divided as to methods.

R.

Cole's Ferry, Oct. 15.

John Skelton Williams.

The confident, determined stand that John Skelton Williams has taken in the face of the temporary trouble that has befallen his firm is but characteristic of the man. Relying as implicitly in Mr. Williams as he does himself in his ability to tide over the embarrassment his friends and the many people in the South who know him personally or by reputation feel gratification in the knowledge that the Seaboard Air Line is in such competent hands. They recognize that the stability of the Seaboard has never been threatened, and they feel sure of the fact that Mr. Williams and Mr. Middendorf, of Baltimore, are fully able to take care of their firms.

Mr. Williams has done too much for the wide section of the South that the Seaboard Air Line traverses for that section not to place every confidence in him. His assurances of facts have always been followed with the demonstrations that time brings. That values of Seaboard securities will rise and that those holding them will realize upon their investments are beliefs he confidently professes, and the entire course of his and the allied firm of Middendorf & Company has proven that he is willing to abide by his judgment. Such confidence as he has shown cannot fail in time to beget confidence, and then a decided improvement in securities will follow.

Less than ten years ago Mr. Williams became identified with this section of the South through his reorganization of the Georgia and Alabama Railroad. That comparatively short line was put upon a basis that indicated the master hand that shaped its destinies, and it became a property of which Mr. Williams was justly proud. He was not fashioned in a mould that permitted him to be content with modest enterprises in this age of tremendous railway projects, however, and when the opportunity offered for the amalgamation of the Georgia and Alabama, the Seaboard Air Line and the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad, he was slow in taking advantage of it. Many will recall the sensation created when it was announced that the Georgia and Alabama had acquired the Seaboard. Some were ready to declare that there had been an error, and that it was the Seaboard that had acquired the Georgia and Alabama. The true condition seemed to them to present too many aspects of the "tale wagging the dog."

The name of Mr. Williams, coupled with that of Mr. W. W. Mackall, of this city, has been synonymous with progress in Savannah. Chief in the great enterprises peculiar to the city that have been launched largely through Mr. Williams' instrumentality is the great system of terminals on Hutchinson's Island, where such a vast volume of freight is handled annually. To him, too, as the head of the Seaboard Air Line which was the movant force, through Mr. Mackall, in the plan for the construction of a union passenger station in Savannah, may largely be ascribed the handsome and commodious station on West Broad Street.

The Seaboard Air Line is too closely identified with a wide section of the South for it not to share any measure of prosperity and success that may be the South's. Never before was the South in a more flourishing condition, and this fact in itself means that the Seaboard must soon have its values recognized.—Savannah Morning News.

POEMS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Whatever your occupation may be, and however crowded your hours with affairs, do not fail to secure at least a few minutes every day for refreshment of your inner life with a bit of poetry. Prof. Charles Eliot Norton.

No. 9.

Oh, Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?

WILLIAM KNOX.

William Knox, a young poet of considerable talent, was born in Scotland, in 1789, and died at Edenburgh in 1825, at the age of 36. Author of The Lonely Hearth, Songs of Israel, The Harp of Zion, etc. His father was a respectable yeoman, and he himself succeeding to good farms under the Duke of Buccleuch, became too soon his own master, and plunged into dissipation and ruin. His talent then showed itself in a fine strain of pensive poetry. Knox spent his later years in Edinburgh under his father's roof, and amidst all his errors was admirably faithful to the domestic affections, a kind and respectable son, and an attached brother. The poem here quoted was much admired by Abraham Lincoln, who often repeated and referred to it.

WHY should the spirit of mortal be proud?
Like a swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
He passeth from life to his rest in the grave.

As the young and the old, the low and the high,
Shall crumble to dust and together shall lie.
The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,
Be scattered around, and together be laid;

The infant a mother attended and loved,
The mother that infant's affection who proved.
The father that mother and infant who blest—
Each, all, are away to that dwelling of rest.

The maid on whose brow, on whose cheek, in whose eye,
Shone beauty and pleasure—her triumphs are by;
And alike from the minds of the living erased
Are the memories of mortals who loved her and praised.

The head of the king, that the sceptre hath borne;
The brow of the priest, that the mitre hath worn;
The eye of the sage, and the heart of the brave—
Are hidden and lost in the depths of the grave.

The peasant, whose lot was to sow and to reap;
The herdsman, who climbed with his goats up the steep;
The beggar, who wandered in search of his bread—
Have faded away like the grass that we tread.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or weed,
That withers away to let others succeed;
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same that our fathers have been;
We see the same sights that our fathers have seen;
We drink the same stream, and we feel the same sun,
And run the same course that our fathers have run.

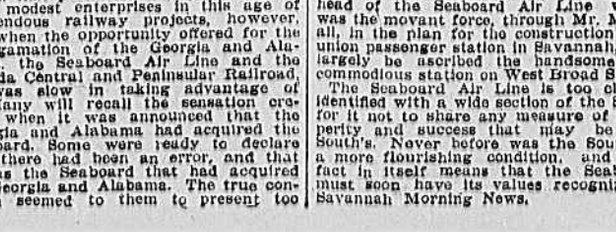
The thoughts we are thinking our fathers did think;
From the death we are shrinking our fathers did shrink;
To the life we are clinging our fathers did cling.
But it speeds from us all like the bird on the wing.

They loved—but the story we cannot unfold;
They scorned—but the heart of the haughty is cold;
They grieved—but no wail from their slumbers will come;
They joyed—but the tongues of their gladness is dumb;

They died—ah! they died—we, things that are now,
That walk on the turf that lies over their brow,
And make in their dwelling a transient abode,
Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage road.

Yea, hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,
Are mingled together in sunshine and rain:
And the smile and the tear, and the song and the dirge,
Still follow each other like surge upon surge.

'Tis the wink of an eye; 'tis the draught of a breath
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,
From the gilded saloon to the bier and shroud;
O, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?



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